

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1-14 (Canceled)

Claim 15 (new): A system for indicating proper sterilization of a mail article, the system comprising:

 a mail article;

 a stamp affixed to the mail article;

 an ink applied to a portion of the stamp, the ink reactive to an energy sterilization beam, the ink changing from a first color to a second color upon exposure to the beam;

 the ink being applied separately from any design of the stamp and only to a portion of the stamp, thereby allowing any design on the stamp to be seen through the applied ink.

Claim 16 (added): The system for indicating proper sterilization of a mail article of claim 15 wherein the stamp includes a self adhesive position upon a back portion of the stamp.

Claim 17 (new): A system for indicating proper sterilization of a mail article, the system comprising:

 a mail article;

an ink applied directly to the mail article, the ink reactive to an energy sterilization beam, the ink changing from a first color to a second color upon exposure to the beam;

the ink being applied separately from any design of the stamp and only to a portion of the stamp, thereby allowing any design on the stamp to be seen through the applied ink.

Claim 18 (new): A method of indicating proper sterilization of a mail article, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a mail article;

applying an ink separate from any stamp or label to the mail article, the ink reactive to an energy sterilization beam, the ink changing from a first color to a second color upon exposure to the beam;

sterilizing the mail article with an energy sterilization beam; and

changing the color of the ink upon exposure of the energy sterilization beam to indicate proper sterilization of the mail article.